

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RANDY G. MASSEY
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

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FARINA MAN SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN METHAMPHETAMINE CONSPIRACY

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on April 20, 2006, **JOSEPH D. FENDER**, age 28, of Farina, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois, following his August 15, 2005, guilty plea to an Indictment charging him with Conspiracy to Manufacture, Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine. The violation took place continuously from approximately January 2001 through November 2003, in Effingham and Clay Counties, Illinois. **FENDER** was sentenced to 175 months' imprisonment in the Federal Bureau of Prisons, 5 years' supervised release, a \$1000 fine and a \$100 special assessment. The prosecution of **JOSEPH D. FENDER** is the result of an ongoing investigation into methamphetamine manufacturing and distribution activities in the area in and around Effingham County, Illinois, being conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Effingham County Sheriff's Department, and the Effingham City Police Department, in cooperation with Effingham County State's Attorney Ed Deters. The ongoing investigation is conducted as part of the Effingham County Project Safe Neighborhoods DRAGUN Team Initiative, a cooperative effort of local, state and federal law enforcement, and state and federal prosecuting authorities, aimed at ridding communities of drugs and guns. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kit Morrissey.